

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated August 25, 2004. Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. In the Office action, claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by US Published Patent Application No. US2002/0151229 A1 to Kanno. In view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Applicant herein amends claim 1 to recite a small watercraft comprising a four-cycle engine; an engine speed sensor configured to output a speed signal according to an engine speed of the engine; a hydraulic-pressure sensing device configured to output a pressure signal according to a pressure of oil that circulates within the engine; and an electric control unit including a detecting portion configured to detect the engine speed of the engine based on the speed signal and the pressure of the oil based on the pressure signal to compare a threshold of the pressure of the oil preset according to the engine speed to the pressure of the oil, and to output an abnormality signal, and a control portion configured to control the watercraft according to the abnormality signal from the detecting portion, wherein the detecting portion has a plurality of detection modes, each of which is defined by a plurality of engine speed ranges, including predetermined numerical ranges, and the threshold is constant in each of the detection modes and increases with increasing engine speed range, wherein in each of the detection modes, the detecting portion outputs the abnormality signal to the control portion when detecting that the engine speed is in the engine speed range corresponding to the detection mode and the pressure of the oil is not more than the threshold

corresponding to the detection mode.

In contrast, Kanno fails to disclose a small watercraft having all of the elements of amended claim 1. For example, Kanno fails to disclose a watercraft having a plurality of detection modes, each of which is defined by a plurality of engine speed ranges, including predetermined numerical ranges, and the threshold is constant in each of the detection modes and increases with increasing engine speed range. Therefore, for at least this reason, amended claim 1 not anticipated by Kanno. Furthermore, claims 2-7 depend from and include all of the elements of claim 1, and are therefore also not anticipated by Kanno.

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on January 24, 2005.


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Respectfully submitted,

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